

Message Text

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16

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-10 EUR-12 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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XMB-04 L-02 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 NSC-05 OIC-02

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R 190859Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1880

UNCLAS COLOMBO 3242

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: US, XB

SUBJ: 125TH (POLICY) SESSION OF THE COLOMBO PLAN COUNCIL FOR
TECHNICAL COOPERATION

REF: COLOMBO 3159

1. MEETING CONVENED ON 12 NOVEMBER WAS ATTENDED BY
MISS BYRNE, CHARGE, AND BOTH ERNEST KANRICH, AID REPRESENTATIVE,
AND H. BIRNBAUM, ASSISTANT AID REPRESENTATIVE. DESPITE
APPARENTLY UNCONTROVERSIAL NATURE OF AGENDA, MEETING ONCE AGAIN
LASTED MORE THAN TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS.

2. ITEMS I, II AND III WERE ADOPTED RELATIVELY ROUTINELY
AFTER MINOR CORRECTIONS IN MINUTES WERE NOTED.

3. ITEMS IV, BACKGROUND PAPER FOR REVIEW OF COLOMBO PLAN,
ELICITED MAJOR OBJECTION FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT WHO ADMITTED
HIS INTERVENTION IRREGULAR BUT EXPLAINED HIS DELEGATION HAD
ORIGINATED MATTER OF ROTATION OF PRESIDENCY REFERRED TO IN
PARAGRAPH 55 OF COUNCIL DOCUMENT C74/56 (SEE COLOMBO A-238).
HE QUESTIONED VALIDITY OF STATEMENT RE "CONSENSUS".

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BUREAU DIRECTOR RESPONDED SAYING CORRESPONDENCE WAS ON FILE

AND COULD MADE AVAILABLE. U.K. REPRESENTATIVE THEN WELCOMED BUREAU'S INITIATIVE IN PREPARING PAPER BUT OBJECTED TO BEING ASKED TO NOTE AND CONCUR IN FORWARDING ITEMS WITHOUT ADEQUATE TIME FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS TO REVIEW. THIS WAS CONCURRED IN BY INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIVE AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WHO EXTENDED THIS OBJECTION TO ITEMS V, POPULATION PROGRAM OF THE COLOMBOPLAN BUREAU, AND VI, STUDIES OF ENERGY RESOURCES OF THE COLOMBO PLAN REGION (ON THE SAME BASIS). DIRECTOR EXPLAINED THAT DOCUMENT C74/56 WAS PREPARED ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE, WHICH HAD REQUESTED ITS PREPARATION TO EXPEDITE CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF THE BUREAU'S OPERATION SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION AT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING LATER THIS MONTH. THE MATTER ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY BUT IT APPEARS DOCUMENT WILL BE FORWARDED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO THEIR PRINCIPALS ALONG WITH THEIR COMMENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE DISCUSSION IN SINGAPORE.

4. ITEM V, POPULATION PROGRAM OF THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU: COUNCIL PRESIDENT AGAIN OBJECTED STRONGLY TO PLACING THIS ITEM ON AGENDA ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, POINTING OUT THAT PROPOSAL IS NEW ONE WITH FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS REQUIRING INSTRUCTIONS FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. THE DIRECTOR'S REPLY WAS THAT ITEM IS NOT NEW SINCE IT WAS DISCUSSED AT LAST CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND HIS INSTRUCTION STEMMED FROM THAT DISCUSSION. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT PROPOSAL BEING FORWARDED TO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WAS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS ONE OF ALTERNATIVES IN DOCUMENT DISCUSSED LAST YEAR. CHARGE ANNOUNCED USG AGREEMENT TO EXTEND GRANT FOR CURRENT YEAR OPERATIONS OF THE POPULATION OFFICE FROM DECEMBER 31, 1974 TO JUNE 30, 1975. COUNCIL THEN NOTED DOCUMENT AND APPROVED ITS FORWARDING TO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE AFTER UNFPA COORDINATOR DESCRIBED STATUS OF UNFPA CONSIDERATION OF ASSISTANCE.

5. ITEMS VI, STUDIES OF ENERGY RESOURCES OF THE COLOMBO PLAN REGION, AND VII, EXTENSION OF TERMS OF OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER AND INFORMATION OFFICER: COUNCIL NOTED AND CONCURRED IN TRANSMITTING DOCUMENTS C74/55 (COLOMBO A-237) AND C74/33 ADD.1 (COLOMBO A-236) TO CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

6. ITEM VIII, APPOINTMENT OF ADVISER ON INTRA-REGIONAL
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TRAINING: NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF ADVISER CLOSED AFTER LAST MEETING WITH THREE FROM INDIA (ONE OF WHOM HAS SINCE BEEN APPOINTED TO COLOMBO PLAN STAFF COLLEGE SINGAPORE), ONE FROM PAKISTAN AND TWO FROM BANGLADESH. HOWEVER, BANGLADES NOMINATIONS WERE NOT ACCOMPANIED BY ADEQUATE BIODATA AND COUNCIL AGREED TO WAIT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED THESE CANDIDATES BEFORE DECIDING AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING ON REPLACEMENT FOR TRAINING ADVISER.

7. IX, ANY OTHER BUSINESS: A. CPB DIRECTOR NOTED THAT HE HAS WRITTEN TO MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR PERMISSION TO ACQUIRE ONE TO ONE AND ONE-HALF ACRES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HEADQUARTERS SUBJECT TO WILLINGNESS OF COUNCIL TO PAY FOR SUCH BUILDING.

B. CPB SALARIES COMMISSION HAS HELD ONE MEETING AND DECIDED IT NEEDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEFORE MAKING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. DIRECTOR HAS INITIATED REQUESTS FOR SUCH INFORMATION.

C. DOCUMENT C74/57 (COLOMBO A-239) WAS INTRODUCED BY DIRECTOR. FOLLOWING SEVERAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS US REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED THAT DOCUMENT RECOMMENDATIONS BE MODIFIED TO INDICATE THREE MONTHS' PAYMENTS HAD BEEN APPROVED AND, WHILE PROVIDENT FUND WILL TAKEN CARE OF IMMEDIATE NEED OF CPB EMPLOYEE AFTER HIS RETIREMENT, MATTER OF "EX GRATIA" PAYMENT WILL BE REFERRED TO SALARIES COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL. THIS MODIFICATION WAS ACCEPTED BY THE CPB DIRECTOR AND APPROVED BY COUNCIL.
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